



Project Scoring Worksheet- DRAFT **Ravalli County Open Lands Bond Program**

Please see Ravalli County Open Lands Bond Program Guidelines for complete explanation and instruction for the Project Scoring Worksheet. Also, please be aware that although a numeric system is used to evaluate a project, there may be circumstances where this system does not truly reflect the value or uniqueness of a project. The Project Scoring Worksheet is only one tool available in the evaluation process and the entire application will be taken into consideration when determining funding.

Issue	Criteria	Possible points	Score	Comments
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General Attributes

The entire property in question should be considered when answering these questions.

1	Size of Property				
	Over 400 acres	4			
	100 to 399 acres	3			
	25 to 99 acres	2			
	Under 25 acres	0			
2	Area of Property to be restricted by easement				
	Over 400 acres	4			
	100 to 399 acres	3			
	25 to 99 acres	2			
	Under 25 acres	0			
3	Water Rights				
	Land retains most senior water rights and/or adequate irrigation district shares and well-maintained conveyance system to maintain conservation values	4			
	Land retains senior water rights and/or adequate irrigation district shares and conveyance system to maintain conservation values	3			

Land retains junior waters rights, and/or some shares with an irrigation district, which are generally sufficient to maintain conservation values. An adequate conveyance system is also present	2	
Land retains junior water rights and/or some shares in irrigation district, which are occasionally sufficient to maintain conservation values. Conveyance system is in disrepair.	1	
Land retains insufficient water rights and/or insufficient shares in conservation district and no conveyance system.	0	

4	Percentage of Land Reserved For Future Home Sites			
	0	4		
	1 %	3		
	2 %	2		
	3 %	1		
	4 %+	0		

Total Category Score: _____ / out of possible 16

Agriculture Resources

Only the portion of the property under consideration for an easement should be considered when answering these questions.

5	Percentage of soils classified as Prime/Statewide Importance or Unique/ Locally Significant by NRCS			
	Over 80%	4		
	50 to 79%	3		
	30 to 49%	2		
	10 to 29%	1		
	0 to 9%	0		

6	Amount of Irrigated or Potentially Irrigated Land			
	81 to 100%	4		
	61 to 80%	3		
	41 to 60%	2		
	21 to 40%	1		
	0 to 20%	0		

7	AUM Potential for the Protected Property Under Best Management Practices			
		300 or more	4	
		100 to 299	3	
		75 to 99	2	
		0 to 74	1	
		no AUM potential	0	
8	Type of Irrigation			
		Gravity Sprinkled	4	
		Sprinkled with electric or gas pump	4	
		Flood Irrigated	4	
		Sub-irrigated	2	
		No irrigation	0	
9	Crop/hay/timber production potential under best management practices			
		e.g. 4 or more tons per acre hay production or 81 bushels or more of grain production	4	
		e.g. 3 to 3.9 tons per acre or 61-80 bushels of grain production	3	
		e.g. 2 to 2.9 tons per acre or 41-60 bushels of grain production	2	
		e.g. 1 to 1.9 tons per acre or 21-40 bushels of grain production	1	
		e.g. 1 ton or less per acre or 0-20 bushels of grain production	0	
10	Integration of Best Management Practices (BMPs) into farm/ranch management			
		There is a formal written plan for the use of BMPs and the BMPs are fully integrated into the farm/ranch management	4	
		There is only an informal plan for use of BMPs AND BMPs are not fully integrated into the farm/ranch management	2	
		There is no BMP plan and no integration of BMPs in the farm/ranch management	0	

11	Proximity to Other Operating Farms/Ranches				
		Surrounded by other farms/ranches	4		
		Contiguous to one or more other farms/ranches	3		
		Within a 1/4 mile of other farms/ranches	2		
		Within a 1/2 mile of other farms/ranches	1		
		More then a mile to other farms/ranches	0		

12	Proximity to Other Farms/Ranches Protected by Conservation Easements				
		Contiguous with other protected farms/ranches	4		
		Within a 1/4 mile of other protected farms/ranches	3		
		Within a 1/2 mile of other protected farms/ranches	2		
		Within a mile of other protected farms/ranches	1		
		More than a mile to other protected farms/ranches	0		

Total Category Score:_____ / out of possible 32

Natural Attributes

Only the portion of the property under consideration for an easement should be considered when answering these questions.

13	Percentage of Soils Classified as Hydric or Typically Associated with Wetland or Riparian Areas				
		Over 80%	4		
		50 to 79%	3		
		30 to 49%	2		
		10 to 29%	1		
		0 to 9%	0		

14	Significant Habitat Diversity			
	Property contains riparian areas or habitat for small and large species, or winter range for mule deer and elk, or provides habitat for species of concern, or provides linkage to an adjacent habitat system with water sources (Natural Heritage Ranking of S2 for plants, animals, and/or communities).	4		
	Property contains riparian areas or important habitat for hawks, eagles, migratory waterfowl, or uncommon plant but does not provide linkage to adjacent habitat system or corridor to a water source (Natural Heritage Ranking of S3 for plants, animals, and/or communities).	3		
	Property contains common habitat for species such as non-migratory waterfowl, coyotes, or whitetail deer (Natural Heritage Ranking of S4 for plants, animals, and/or communities).	2		
	Property contains little for native species (Natural Heritage Ranking of S5 for plants, animals, and/or communities).	1		
	Property contains no habitat for native species	0		

15	Significant Species Diversity			
	Small and large species, such as mule deer and elk, or other species of concern, including vegetation are currently found on the property or can be found seasonally.	4		
	Hawks, eagles, migratory waterfowl, or uncommon plants are currently found on the property or can be found seasonally.	3		
	Non-migratory waterfowl, coyotes, or whitetail deer are currently found on the property, or can be found seasonally.	2		
	Few native or sensitive species are found or can be found on the property.	1		
	Property contains no native or sensitive species.	0		

16	Protection of Stream Quality				
		Property contains buffered native riparian systems	4		
		Property contains perennial streams or buffers to adjacent water sources.	3		
		Property contains natural perennial streams or water courses.	2		
		Property contains natural ephemeral streams or water courses.	1		
		Property contains little or no natural streams or water courses.	0		

17	Protection of Wetland/Open Water Quality				
		Property contains buffered native wetland or open water systems.	4		
		Property contains perennial wetlands or open water sources, or buffers adjacent water sources.	3		
		Property contains natural perennial wetlands or open water sources.	2		
		Property contains natural seasonal wetlands or open water sources.	1		
		Property contains little or no natural wetlands or open water sources.	0		

18	Integration of Best Management Practices (BMPs) into Habitat/Wildlife/Water Management				
		There is a formal written plan for the use of BMPs and the BMPs are fully integrated into the habitat/wildlife/water management	4		
		There is only an informal plan for use of BMPs AND BMPs are not fully integrated into the habitat/wildlife/water management	2		
		There is no BMP plan and no integration of BMPs in the habitat/wildlife/water management	0		

19	Proximity to Significant Wildlife, Fisheries, Natural Areas, or Important Bird Areas			
		Surrounded	4	
		Contiguous to one or more	3	
		Within a 1/4 mile	2	
		Within a 1/2 mile	1	
		Greater then a mile	0	

20	Proximity to other natural areas protected by conservation easements or to public lands			
		Contiguous	4	
		Within a 1/4 mile	3	
		Within a 1/2 mile	2	
		Within a mile	1	
		Greater then a mile	0	

Total Category Score: _____ / out of possible 32

Additional Community Benefits

Only the portion of the property under consideration for an easement should be considered when answering these questions.

21	Scenic Values			
		The property can be viewed from a federal or state highway corridor	4	
		The property can be viewed from a minor collector county road	2	
		The property can only be viewed from a private road	0	

22	Public Policy			
		Management of the property consistently and enthusiastically conforms with the intent, goals, and policies of applicable county land use plans and regulations.	4	
		Management of the property occasionally conforms with the intent, goals, and policies of applicable county land use plans and regulations.	2	
		Management of the property in no way conforms with the intent, goals, and policies of applicable county land use plans and regulations.	0	

Total Category Score: _____ / out of possible 8

Leverage

Only the portion of the property under consideration for an easement should be considered when answering these questions.

23	Landowner Contribution				
	50% or more of the value	4			
	25 to 49% of the value	3			
	15 to 24% of the value	2			
	0-15% of the value	1			
	no contribution	0			

24	Proposal Partners				
	81% or more of the cost	4			
	61 to 80% of the cost	3			
	41 to 60% of the cost	2			
	21 to 40% of the cost	1			
	0 to 20% of the cost	0			

25	Percent of Project Cost Matched with Donation of a New Conservation Easement.				
	more than 80%	4			
	51 to 80%	3			
	21 to 50%	2			
	11 to 20%	1			
	0-10%	0			

Total Category Score: _____ / out of possible 12

Special Attributes

Below are examples of special attributes which may apply to a project. Others will be considered. Please see the application guidelines document for more information. Only the portion of the property under consideration for an easement should be considered when answering these questions.

National Prime Farmland Soils				
	75 to 100%	4		
	50 to 75%	3		
	25 to 50%	2		
	0 to 25%	1		
	Contains no National Prime Farmland Soils	0		

Natural Heritage Rank (Habitat and/or Species)				
	G1/S1 –Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction.	4		

G2/S2 – Imperiled because of rarity or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.	3	
G3/S3 – Either very rare and local throughout its range, or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range, or vulnerable to extinction throughout its range because of other factors.	2	
G4/S4 – Apparently secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.	1	
G5/S5 – Demonstrably secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.	0	

TMDL Streams			
Designated TMDL impaired stream primary feature on property. Property could be a significant contributor to stream pollution.	4		
Designated TMDL impaired stream exists on property, but is not a substantial feature. However, property could be significant contributor of pollution	3		
Designated TMDL impaired stream primary feature of property, but property is not a major contributor of pollution	2		
Designated TMDL impaired stream exists on property, but property doesn't propose a significant threat of pollution	1		
Does not contain a TMDL stream	0		

Public Access			
Establishes or maintains important access to: Public trail linkage and public fishing and public lands and public hunting.	4		
Establishes or maintains important access to three of four: Public trail linkage, public fishing, public lands, and/or public hunting.	3		
Establishes or maintains important access to two of four: Public trail linkage, public fishing, public lands, and/or public hunting.	2		

Establishes or maintains important access to one of four: Public trail linkage, public fishing, public lands, and/or public hunting.	1	
Doesn't establishes or maintain important public access.	0	

Total Project Score: _____

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